

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

29 October 1973

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

1. Colonel Markarian, Air Force member of COMIREX, called to request guidance on the priority and urgency, if any, which should be placed on moving a mobile van containing a CDC computer from Beale AFB to Griffiss to support more timely generation of ephemeris data for GIANT REACH pre-mission planning and for processing the ephemeris to support immediate exploitation. This action would result in approximately a 4-hour improvement (over the 12- to 17-hour present capability) in the availability of the ephemeris data for exploitation support. It would also allow changes to be inserted into a mission plan considerably later than has been true for the two GIANT REACH missions flown.

2. The initial cost of moving the computer van to Griffiss would be about \$60,000 and would take about 50 hours to execute (9 hours notification plus 5 hours transit plus 36 hours check-out and readiness).

3. Colonel Markarian indicated that movement of the van was under review at SAC; and the consensus was that, if only one more mission were flown, previous arrangements should be used (ephemeris data flown from Griffiss to Beale; converted into hard-copy tape and taken to Sunnyvale; data linked from Sunnyvale to NPIC) for handling the ephemeris data. If two or more missions were likely to be flown, then the van should be moved to Griffiss.

4. I indicated to Colonel Markarian that the question of need for (requirements) photographic reconnaissance of the Middle East in relation to the peace-keeping machinery is under careful review at the present time. I said that I knew of no immediate, pressing, requirements for a mission at this time and that the need for a GIANT REACH mission

over the weekend had been explicitly reviewed. It was determined that there were no pressing information needs of a type which balanced the associated risks. I reviewed with Colonel Markarian the planning and considerations that had been involved throughout the last week or so and indicated that papers were being prepared in DoD, and the COMIREX Staff, which would provide perspective concerning the general options open for photographic coverage of the Middle East if needed. A major uncertainty concerns the environment within which such reconnaissance might take place. If a permissive environment exists, the approaches to reconnaissance would be very different from those in a hostile environment.

5. I indicated that I thought a decision on the mobile van could be made with considerably better visibility a little bit later this week. If it appeared that one or more additional missions were being considered seriously, then I thought the van should be moved to Griffiss. The cost of such a move, relative to the planning flexibility and timeliness of exploitation support would be small considering the total cost of the collection and exploitation involved. I said that, to assist Colonel Markarian in this matter, I would keep this question in mind and inform him of any indications of additional planning for GIANT REACH activities if these occur.

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